Re-Categorisation of Customs Tariff

1597. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-categorised the Customs Tariff;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) from when it will be given effect; and

(d) how it will benefit the customs collection targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1985 (8 of 1986) to bring the Customs Tariff in conformity with the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonised System) came into force on the 28th February 1986. The Harmonised System is an internationally accepted nomenclature for goods in international trade.

(d) In the Harmonised System, the structure is far more rationalised compared to the Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature (CCCN), on which the earlier Customs Tariff was based, and has taken into account the latest changes in technology and pattern of international trade making it uptodate. It is, therefore, expected to minimise classification disputes under the Customs Tariff and thereby facilitate revenue collections.

Seminar on Consumer Protection

1598. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had recently organised a two-day Seminar in Delhi on Consumer Protection; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the participants welcomed the draft model law in this regard and made certain suggestions for its improvement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all the voluntary organisations present at the Seminar pleaded for inclusion of not only goods but also services including those of the public sector, under the proposed model law; and

(d) if so, what is Government's stand thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. An all India Seminar on Consumer Protection was organised by the Department of Civil Supplies in New Delhi on 20, 21 January, 1986 to discuss the following items:

(i) Draft Model Law on Consumer Protection, to be adopted by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

(ii) Amendments to Consumer Protection Laws, *e.g.* PFA Act, Standards of Weights and Measures Act, etc.

(iii) Giving limited powers to voluntary organisations.

(iv) People's participation in Consumers Protection Movement, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

(v) Specific administrative, legal, scientific and technical arrangements for the development and monitoring of consumer movement in the country.

(vi) Unit Pricing System.

(vii) Setting up of All India Confederation of Voluntary Consumer Organisations.

The Seminar was attended by the representatives of the Central Ministries/Departments concerned with the various consumer protection laws, State Governments/Union Territories and voluntary consumer organisations.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.